

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th February 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Agrahāyan, 1287 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	10th February 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
Weekly.				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	7th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	8th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	8th and 15th February 1881.
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	13th February 1881.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	11th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	16th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	4th ditto.
15	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....	7th ditto.
16	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	
17	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	6th ditto.
18	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	4th ditto.
19	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	
20	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	13th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	7th ditto.
22	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	14th ditto.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	12th ditto.
24	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	7th ditto.
25	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
Daily.				
26	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	11th to 16th February 1881.
27	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	11th to 19th ditto.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	12th to 19th ditto.
29	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	12th to 19th ditto.
30	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....
31	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
32	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	12th ditto.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
33	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	10th ditto.
34	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	
35	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
36	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
37	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	11th ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
38	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
Monthly.				
39	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 7th, 1881.

THE *Navavibhakar*, of the 7th February, contains an article on the costs of the Afghan War. England, remarks the Editor, should bear a portion of the

The cost of the Afghan War. expenditure incurred on account of this war, which was brought about by the late Ministry with a view to enhance her prestige. It was not undertaken in the interests of the people of India. The Afghans had not given any cause of provocation to the British Government, nor were they strong enough to do this. Justice therefore requires that the British Exchequer should pay a portion of the war charges; and it is gratifying to find that this course has been decided upon by the party now in power. There would have been but little hope of justice in this matter had Lord Beaconsfield remained in office. The men who are answerable for this war did not evidently foresee that England would be required in the end to bear a portion of the cost incurred on its account; and it is exceedingly probable that but for the inability of India to pay the whole bill, the question would not have been raised at all. After referring to the arguments put forth in a recent article in the *Pioneer* to show that the whole cost of the Afghan war should, in justice, be borne by the Indian Exchequer, as being utterly useless and misleading, the writer dwells on the poverty of the people of this country, and concludes by regarding it as a good sign that the pocket of the British tax-payer has been touched. This will arouse enquiry into the true state of the Indian finances, and if this result is brought about, even the Afghan war will not have been without its use.

SAHACHAR,
February 7th, 1881.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 7th February:—An English

Change in Lord Hartington's policy. Ministry, it would seem, must of necessity conciliate the merchants of Manchester, and this, no matter whether the party in power was Whig or Tory, Conservative or Liberal, attached to Mr. Disraeli or to Mr. Gladstone. This was done by the Marquis of Salisbury, and after him by Lord Cranbrook; and the present Secretary of State, Lord Hartington, also is anxious to do the same. We are not opposed to free trade, or to the principles announced by Mr. Cobden; but certainly the policy of free trade will not be promoted by the repeal of the import duties. India is mainly an agricultural country, and has no commerce of its own. It is not able to compete with any foreign power. That free trade principles therefore are fully applicable to this country is not a proposition which will be admitted by everybody; and hence it is not axiomatic. It is not easy to place on an equitable basis the commercial relations of a conquering country and its dependency. In her trade with India, England of course takes the lion's share. The present condition of the Indian manufactures is really deplorable; and is due to the existence of foreign competition. What therefore is required of every native of India in this connection is that he should use means whereby native manufactures may be stimulated and improved. But attempts in this direction are beset with difficulties. The weavers of Lancashire are afraid that the products of the newly-established Indian cloth-mills may succeed in driving Manchester piece-goods from the market, and hence they are unceasing in their efforts to obtain the repeal of the import duties. Hence it is that the cry of free trade principles has been raised in utter disregard of the peculiar circumstances of the Indian population. It would be sinful to attempt any sacrifice of the revenues of India at this time of financial depression. The predecessors of Lord Hartington made the attempt, and now he also has begun to tread in their footsteps.

3. In a long article on the retention of Candahar, the *Som Prakásh*,

SOM PRAKASH,
February 14th, 1881.

The retention of Candahar.

of the 14th February, remarks that the decision at which the Ministry have arrived regarding Candahar shows a departure from the policy which has for a long time past guided England in the matter of foreign conquests. England has made many annexations; but she has very rarely given up what she had once acquired. Whatever may be the reasons which may have helped the Cabinet in coming to this resolve as to the abandonment of Candahar, the fact cannot fail to be interesting. Lord Lytton's speech in the House of Lords was a failure. By the annexation of Candahar, the late Viceroy had hoped to leave behind him an imperishable renown, but he has been disappointed. The Editor gives the substance of the speeches of Lord Lytton and the Duke of Argyle.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. The *Paridarshak*, of the 6th February, remarks, in reference to the strong opposition shown by the landlords of Bengal to the draft Rent Bill, that their efforts have become successful to some extent.

Sir Ashley Eden, and the draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Commission.

PARIDARSHAK,
February 6th, 1881.

They have been assured by the Lieutenant-Governor that Mr. Reynolds is engaged in drafting another Bill. But the question is—Has it been proper to undertake an amendment of the first-named measure without hearing both sides? Government has had enough of the arguments from the zemindars' side of the question; in fact its Secretariat is deluged with their memorials and representations. It has, however, changed its views before hearing if the voiceless ryots had anything to urge in their own interests; and this, it seems to us, is not just. Sir Ashley Eden is greatly indebted to the Editor of the *Hindu Patriot*, and one might ask whether, in thus changing his views on the Rent Bill, His Honor has not sought to make some return for the benefits received.

5. We have always thought, and also expressed our conviction, says the same paper, that it is extremely unfair to expend even one *cowrie* of the revenue raised

A State Church in India.

from the poor people of India on the maintenance of a clergy ministering to the spiritual needs of a handful of Europeans. Government has not, however, yet paid any heed to our representations. We are therefore in some measure reassured by the action of the Ceylon Government, which has ruled that henceforth it will not pay the salary of any chaplains. Will our Government, which is so just, lag behind the authorities of Ceylon?

PARIDARSHAK.

6. In reference to the appointment of Mr. Elliot to succeed Sir Stuart Bayley in the office of Chief Commissioner, the same paper asks—"Could not the office be abolished? As far as we can see, a measure, the adoption of which in the present depressed condition of the finances, might lead to a saving of about 35,000 rupees a month, is not one which should be treated lightly; and we are persuaded that the saving would be really to this extent." There would be of course a few interested persons found who might not consider this desirable; but if Government really wished to act with a view to the good of the country, there should not be the least hesitation in abolishing the Chief Commissionership.

PARIDARSHAK.

7. The same paper refers to the large number of cases of theft by house-breaking which has recently occurred in Sylhet, and the inefficiency of the town

The Sylhet police.

police, which is greatly due to its numerical weakness. The authorities are asked to increase the number of constables.

PARIDARSHAK.

SAHACHAR,
February 7th, 1881.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th February, contains an article headed—

The Press Act.

Will the Press Act be repealed? After dwelling on the injustice involved in all attempts to gag individuals and to deprive them of their liberty of action, the writer points out that it is an error to suppose that any Government can, by means of repressive laws, ever establish its ascendancy on the minds of a people. It is only a sincere and affectionate treatment on the part of its rulers that can endear them to a nation. The wonder therefore is that Government does not see that the repressive character of the laws, and the rigors of the law courts, are calculated to banish all sense of confidence and loyalty from their minds. A perfectly groundless distrust of the people of India finds expression in the laws; thus Act IX was passed with a view to terrorize them. This object, which is far from laudable, has been to some extent attained. The people of India have been terrified; but there was no need of a stringent law to bring about this result; nor has Government gained anything by it. Nay, on the contrary, the confidence hitherto reposed in it has been greatly shaken. Act IX has been a failure; that measure would never have become law had Lord Lytton and his adherents but been able to foresee its consequences. The liberty of writing was indeed taken away from Native Editors, but not their intelligence. Their feelings could no longer find a free vent, and began to work inwardly. Lord Ripon is wise enough to see the evil consequences of this state of things, and hence it may be reasonably hoped that, under his rule, Act IX will be repealed. If it really comes to that, the people will be reassured and made more loyal to Government than ever.

SAHACHAR.

9. The same paper contains an article on the outstill system, and the

The outstill system and the grievances of the vendors of liquor.

grievances of the vendors of liquor. The introduction of this system has resulted in an increase of drunkenness among the labouring classes of the population. It has cheapened spirituous liquor, and stimulated its sale by illicit methods. The vendors in the towns, who are not allowed to sell at any price below that fixed by Government, find it paying to supply their shops with liquor manufactured at the outstills. Government in a manner induces them to resort to this illicit method by its practice of annually selling the licenses to the highest bidder—a practice which causes them great hardship. The difficulties attending the renewal of a license are so many, and the chances of success so uncertain, that a liquor-vendor cannot prudently employ any large capital in a trade which he may not perhaps be permitted to carry on next year. The writer in conclusion expresses a hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will take the recent memorial of the vendors into his favourable consideration, and grant them redress.

SAHACHAR.

10. The same paper in an article written in a sarcastic vein, quotes

Sir Ashley Eden and the Native Press.

the Sanskrit adage that a father should caress his son in infancy, chastise him in boyhood, and treat him as a friend in his youth, as illustrative of the treatment which Government has always extended to the native press. In its infancy the vernacular press was fostered and caressed by a paternal Government; and now that it has passed that stage, it is being chastised by the Lieutenant-Governor. A long time must yet elapse, it seems, before it attains that state in its existence which may enable the rulers to extend to it a friendly treatment. Sir Ashley Eden has always shown a hostile attitude towards the native papers, and has availed himself of almost every occasion to attack them. He laboured with great earnestness to have the Press Act passed, and has ever since poured the vials of his wrath on the devoted heads of Native Editors, who, however, always seek his welfare. The chastisement to which they have been subjected at his hands is not of that

sort which a parent inflicts upon his son. While a father aims at correction, Sir Ashley has always sought the extermination of the native press. The repeal of the Press Act—a not improbable contingency—will doubtless entirely upset His Honor, while it will gladden the hearts of Native Editors. Sir Ashley's official career is drawing to a close, and it is to be regretted that, while they will have the pleasure of witnessing the end of his authority, he will not be given to see their extinction. Sir Ashley, the friend of Bengal, has been found out, so that he will no longer be able to throw dust into the eyes of the people, or to win popularity by conciliating only a dozen landholders of this province.

11. The *Naravibhakar*, of the 7th February, refers to the sad havoc which is being made by the malarious fever in Bengal. Government finds itself unable

Cinchona febrifuge.

to cope with it. It is not that the rulers are remiss in their efforts, but for several reasons they have not met with success. Thus, in the first place, the true cause of this fever has not yet been ascertained. There are several theories put forth in this connection; that propounded by the late Rajah Digamber Mitra, however, appears to be the right one, and has apparently found favour with the present Lieutenant-Governor. But the local Government is not in possession of sufficient funds, so that it is not able to remove the obstructions to drainage that exist all over the country. Thus it is that there is a large number of towns and villages where the inhabitants are still afflicted with this scourge. Another reason why success to the desired extent is not obtained is this, that long after the fever has done its murderous work in any locality is Government apprized of the fact. The usual correspondence then takes place, and if after that the authorities are fully satisfied of the accuracy of the reports submitted, a few phials of quinine are sent to the afflicted village. Many in the meantime have died for want of medical treatment. Under these circumstances, it is extremely necessary that quinine, the great specific for malarious fever should be made easily available at a cheap price. The increase in the extent of cinchona cultivation in this country is a matter which cannot but cause real gratification.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
February 7th, 1881.

12. The same paper, in another article, entirely concurs in the observations contained in the recent memorial of the Indian Association to Lord Ripon. It is to be hoped that His Excellency will not overlook or disregard the prayer of the memorialists, who have spoken as the mouthpiece of the whole Indian population. The writer then expatiates on the injustice which has been done to Native Editors by the passing of the Vernacular Press Act, the hardship that has resulted from the Arms Act, and the imposition of the license-tax, and on the necessity of checking the high-handedness of individual officers of Government.

The memorial of the Indian Association to Lord Ripon.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

13. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 7th February, on Mr. Mosley's case:—It is said Lord Ripon has called for the papers in the case of Mr.

Mr. Mosley and Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji.

Mosley's misunderstanding with Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji. If the rumour turn out to be true, Baboo Atul Chandra will have been instrumental in doing real good to his country. Bengalis in the Subordinate Judicial, and Executive Services are not unoften obliged to put up with high-handedness of the nature of that to which the Baboo was subjected. In order to please his superior, more than one officer is compelled to act against his own conviction. When the Deputy Magistrate of Jhenidah brought a case of libel against the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, the then Magistrate of Jessore sent for an Inspector of Police, an old man, and asked him what evidence he was going to give. "I will tell the truth," said the man. "What is the truth?" asked the Magistrate! "What has appeared in

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
February 7th, 1881.

the *Amrita Bazar Patriká* is for the most part true," was the reply. "That will go against Mr. Wright," urged the Magistrate. The Inspector remarked that, having done wrong for the best part of his life, he was not now in his old age going to perjure himself; whereupon it was observed by the Magistrate that it was perfectly open to him to speak, or not to speak, the truth; but if his evidence in any way harmed Mr. Wright, the witness would lose his pension. This was sufficient to make the man give false evidence. Once an officer in Krishnagar thus wrote to a Subordinate Deputy Magistrate:—"My *khansama* will bring a case against my *mally*. You must punish the *mally*. A case came on for trial before a Deputy Magistrate of Jessore, in the course of which certain illegalities committed by the District Judge were revealed. When the Magistrate came to know this, he directed that the matter should be hushed up.

The above are a few of the instances in which magisterial officers have sought to influence the decisions of their subordinates. Wherever a high-handed officer goes, his deputies are almost sure to be required to do something wrong. Fortunately, the number of such over-bearing officers is gradually becoming less. It is not that Bengalis in the Subordinate Executive Service are unable to do their duty, or lack a sense of duty. The fact is they are not willing to offend their official superiors for fear of losing their posts. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor's decision in the case of Babu Atul Chandra is condemned on the ground of its being marked by undue severity and race-feeling. While admitting the truth of all that may be urged on behalf of the Babu, and blaming Mr. Mosley for what he did, Sir Asley Eden has still punished the former.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
February 7th, 1881.

14. The same paper publishes some letters purporting to have been written to the Editor by correspondents in the mofussil, all describing the hardship to which enumerators have been subjected owing to the arbitrary and high-handed manner in which the magisterial and police officers have required them to do the work connected with the census. They are not allowed any remuneration, but are fined for trivial faults.

BHARAT MIHIR,
February 8th, 1881.

15. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 8th February, dwells on the small number of superior appointments filled by natives in the public service of this country. Appointment of natives to high offices. No one can question their fitness for the higher posts, and yet no adequate provision exists for utilizing their services. The Native Civil Service is only a mockery, and can do but little good. The writer urges on Government the desirability of appointing natives to the offices of Assistant and Joint-Magistrate.

BHARAT MIHIR.

16. The same paper notices, with gratification, the rumour that the Government of India has received instructions from the Secretary of State for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act. This law has extremely injured the interests of vernacular literature, and the sooner it is repealed the better.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
February 8th, 1881.

17. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 8th February, contains an article headed "Good News." The Editor refers to the rumour that the Press Act will shortly be repealed, and after dwelling on the mistaken policy which led Lord Lytton to pass this measure, concludes by asking the Viceroy to cause rejoicing in the hearts of the people by announcing its abrogation.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
February 10th, 1881.

18. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 10th February, recurs to the subject of a new survey of the lands in Chittagong, which is said to be under the consideration of Government. The writer deprecates the action contemplated. [The subject has been noticed in previous Reports.]

19. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the authorities to the extortions practised by the servants of the mohant, or the chief priest, on the pilgrims who repair from different parts of the country to the Sitakund shrine. The writer hopes that, on the occasion of the approaching *Sivarátri* fair, a Hindu Deputy Magistrate will be deputed to this place to see that everything goes on smoothly.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
February 10th, 1881.

20. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 11th February, asks that the Director of Public Instruction should clearly state whether a teacher in a Government aided school, who may be more than 25 years of age, would be eligible for appointment to a school which is entirely supported by Government. The subject has created some agitation among those whom it concerns. It was expected that the powers in connection with the appointment, transfer, and dismissal of these officers would be vested in the Director and the Inspectors, and arrangements made for the timely payment of their salaries. But nothing has yet been done in the matter; while, on the contrary, teachers in aided schools, who may be more than 25 years of age, are precluded from entering Government service.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 11th, 1881.

21. The *Sádháraní*, of the 13th February, supports the memorial which has been made by the Indian Association to the Viceroy, praying for the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, the Arms Act, and certain other obnoxious measures of the late Administration.

SADHARANI,
February 13th, 1881.

22. One Ganga Vishnu Ghoshal, writing to the same paper from Chitpore, directs the attention of Government to the hardship that has been caused to the traders in the suburbs of Calcutta by the higher assessments with the license-tax made this year. The work was performed by officers under the control of the Deputy Magistrate and the Magistrate at Alipore. The poor traders, who are now assessed at rates which are double the old rates, have filed appeals, and have for nearly a month danced attendance at the Alipore Court without obtaining a hearing. They are being put to expense and trouble, and their business is being ruined. Nobody yet knows when their cases will be called on for hearing.

SADHARANI.

23. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 13th February, urges on Government the claim of Babu Rajanikanta Chowdhury of the Dacca Bar, who has already been selected by the Director of Public Instruction to fill the post of Law Professor in the local college to the office of Government Pleader. It would be really doing injustice to him if the Legal Remembrancer appointed any other person to the vacant post.

DACCA PRAKASH,
February 13th, 1881.

24. The same paper remarks, with gratification, that the present Liberal Ministry will shortly redeem one of the pledges they gave to the people of India before their accession to power. The Vernacular Press Act is doomed; it is to be hoped that Lord Ripon will see his way to the repeal of the Arms Act and the License-tax also. The whole article is eulogistic of Lord Ripon and the leaders of the Liberal Party.

DACCA PRAKASH.

25. The same paper contains a long article enumerating the important services rendered to the Dacca College by its present energetic and popular Principal, Mr. Pope. He takes a keen interest in the moral and intellectual education of the pupils.

DACCA PRAKASH.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PARIDARSHAK,
February 6th, 1881.

26. The *Paridarshak*, of the 6th February, dwells on the important services rendered to the people of this country by Mr. Robert Knight, who, in the pages of the *London Statesman*, is constantly exposing the shortcomings of the Indian Administration. The Editor exhorts the native public to liberally respond to the call for aid made by Mr. Knight in order to enable him to successfully defend the case which has been brought against him by the co-Regent of Hyderabad.

[Nearly all the leading native papers have had articles on this subject, containing similar observations.]

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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 19th February 1881.